



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 10

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OFFICE OF  
ECOSYSTEMS, TRIBAL AND  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

MAY 14 2012

Paula Cooper  
Project Branch 2, Division of License Renewal  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Re: Final Supplemental EIS (FSEIS) for renewal of the Columbia Generating Station license (EPA Project Number: 11-4122-NRC).

Dear Ms. Cooper:

In accordance with our responsibilities under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the US Nuclear Regulatory Agency (NRC) Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (FSEIS) for the proposed relicense of the Columbia Generating Station (CGS) in Benton County, Washington.

In our comments on the Draft Supplemental EIS in November 2011, the EPA recommended the FSEIS include information on the current status of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit application and related measures to protect water quality. We also requested additional information regarding outcomes of work with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), US Fish and Wildlife Service, and recommended measures to reduce risks and protect biota and habitat.

After receiving the FSEIS, we have become aware of NMFS' concerns regarding the potential of the existing intake/discharge structures for the plant to cause fry and juvenile salmonids' entrainment or impingement. As a result, NMFS has asked the EPA to coordinate with them on a review of the draft NPDES permit. The EPA will be informing the State of Washington Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council and Department of Ecology to notify them early in the permit drafting processes so that both EPA and NMFS have sufficient opportunity for input. As the permitting process proceeds, the EPA recommends that the Record of Decision (ROD) for the proposed action incorporate available information on the intake/discharge structures, to assure that continued plant operations would be protective of fish, including ESA-listed fish species from impacts due to the structures.

If you have questions about this review, please contact me at (206) 553-1601 or by electronic mail at [reichgott.christine@epa.gov](mailto:reichgott.christine@epa.gov), or you may contact Theo Mbabaliye of my staff at (206) 553-6322 or by electronic mail at [mbabaliye.theogene@epa.gov](mailto:mbabaliye.theogene@epa.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christine B. Reichgott".

Christine B. Reichgott, Manager  
Environmental Review and Sediment Management Unit